

1 in 2000 · 1 in 2001  
No Change

# Murder

*Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation, as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.*

## Father Charged in Daughter's Death

Shortly before 2:30 p.m. on January 7, 2001, Cambridge police and fire units responded to an apartment in Jefferson Park. When officers arrived, they found an eleven-month-old baby lying on the bed unresponsive and not breathing. The baby was transported to the hospital, but later died.

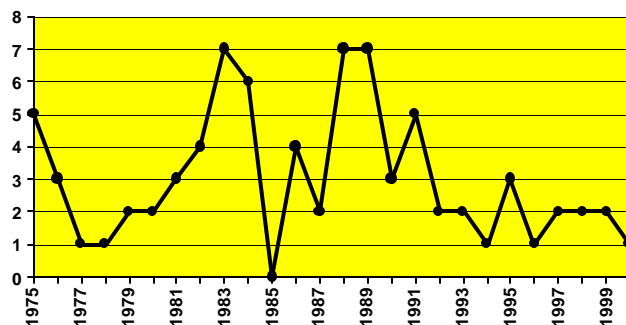
The baby's father, John Forbes of Roxbury had been watching the baby and her twin sister while their mother was at work. When emergency units arrived, Forbes stated that he had been feeding the twins oranges and that the infant in question had choked on an orange peel.

The medical examiner determined that the infant had died from massive trauma to her head. An autopsy determined that she had suffered brain and eye hemorrhaging consistent with "shaken baby" syndrome.

John Forbes was arrested and charged with the murder of his eleven-month-old daughter and was arraigned in Cambridge District Court on January 9, 2001.

## Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

**Murder in Cambridge, 1975-2000**



For the thirty-year period between 1960 and 1989, the city averaged four and a half murders each year. The annual average for the 1990 has fallen to just over two per year. (Nationally, cities of around 100,000 residents average six murders per year.) Trend analysis over the past decades points to three recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge:

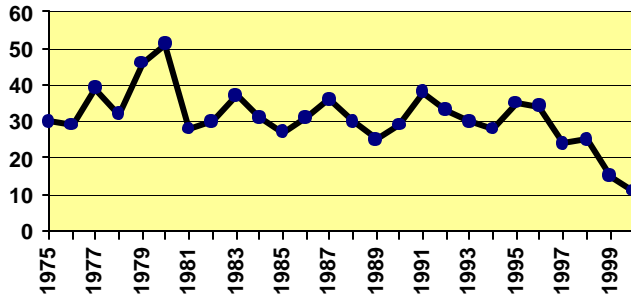
- ☐ **Domestic** murder, in which an elderly female is brutally killed by her husband in a homicidal rage;
- ☐ Arguments among the **homeless** that, often fueled by drugs or alcohol, escalate into deadly violence; and
- ☐ The murder of young men by handguns or knives in **street** robberies or drug deals gone awry.

5 in 2000 · 8 in 2001  
60% increase

# Rape

Forcible Rape, as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

### Rape in Cambridge, 1975-2000



Rape has gone up by three incidents so far this year, a minimal increase, as last year's totals were the lowest seen in over 25 years.

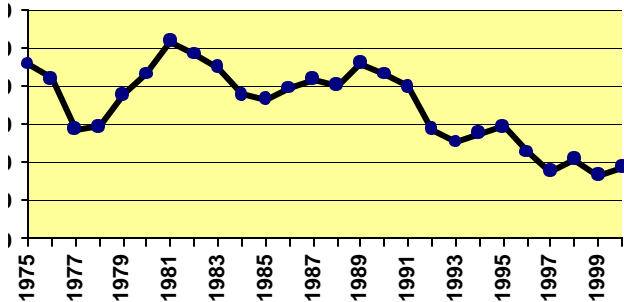
All eight rapes reported were committed by acquaintances. The first rape occurred in September of last year. Two rapes reported this year involved rapes of homeless women by a homeless man, named Eddie Kent. Kent was arrested for both rapes. Of the remaining five reports all but one have been cleared by arrests.

84 in 2000 · 66 in 2001  
21% decrease

## Robbery

Robbery is the taking or attempt

### Robbery in Cambridge, 1975-2000



value from the care, custody, or control of a person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. This crime includes muggings, purse snatchings, and bank hold-ups.

	2000	2001	% Change
Commercial Robbery	11	14	+27%
Street Robbery	73	52	-29%
Total	84	66	-21%

Robbery increased slightly in 2000, after a thirty-year low in 1999. The first two quarters of 2001 recorded a decrease

from last year maybe indicating that this crime will once again plummet to an all time low.

## Commercial Robbery

Commercial robbery increased by three incidents in the first six months of 2001. Five gas stations, three banks, two restaurants, one taxicab, one video store, one parking garage, and one convenience store reported robberies.

The following is a summary of the gas station robberies that occurred during the second quarter:

- Two of the gas station robberies occurred at the Magazine Beach Shell, located at 207 Magazine Street. The first occurred just after the new year when three suspects walked up to the teller and demanded money. The suspects motioned as if they had a gun in their pockets. The teller refused and the suspects fled empty-handed in a green Jeep. The second occurred in June and was similar to the first except the suspects hit the window with a baseball bat and fled in a red Honda.
- In March, a suspect entered the Sunoco gas station at 266 Mass. Ave. and purchased a drink. When the worker opened the cash register, the suspect grabbed all the cash and fled. The worker chased the suspect until he saw the suspect take what looked like a gun out of his pocket.
- A strange robbery occurred at the Mobile gas station at 2055 Mass. Ave. when an Arlington man entered and demanded the Greek and American flags that were hanging up. When a worker tried

to get the flags back, the man grabbed the worker by the throat and then fled by car. An arrest was later made.

- The last gas station robbery occurred in April at a gas station at 209 Broadway. The suspect entered and didn't have enough money to pay for the gas he put in his car. The suspect then grabbed \$80 out of the worker's hands and punched the worker in the face twice before fleeing.

Business Districts	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001
Galleria/East Cambridge	0	2	1
Kendall Square/MIT	0	0	2
Inman Square	1	2	1
Central Square	4	3	1
Cambridgeport/Riverside	0	0	2
Bay Square/Upper B.way	0	0	0
Harvard Square	0	2	3
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	0	0	1
Porter Square	2	1	2
Alewife/West Cambridge	1	1	1

The first bank robbery occurred in January at the Cambridge Trust Co. on Mass. Ave. A man entered the bank and approached the teller, threatening to kill her if she hit the alarm. The man fled with cash and on the way out threatened a manager. This robbery may have been linked to a series of Charlestown robberies. The second bank robbery occurred at the East Cambridge Savings Bank, located at 1 Canal Park. A robber came in with a note demanding money. When the teller hesitated, the robber threatened to shoot her. The third bank robbery occurred in April at the Fleet bank in Harvard Square. A suspect entered the bank and passed a note that he was robbing the bank. The teller stepped away and the robber calmly left the bank with nothing.

Both of the restaurant robberies occurred in March. The first involved a suspect who entered the Burger King, located at 679 Concord Avenue, brandishing a gun and demanding money. The suspect might have been an ex-employee. The second robbery occurred in Harvard Square at Pho Pasteur when a suspect entered the restaurant at closing time, pushed an employee aside, and stole the day's deposits. The suspect stated that he had a gun.

Rounding out the total was a taxicab robbery outside the Marriott hotel, a robbery of the Blockbuster Video store on Somerville Ave, a parking garage robbery at 4 Cambridge Center, and a convenience store robbery at the Store 24 in Harvard Square. The taxicab was sitting outside the hotel when a car with three suspects pulled up and demanded the cab driver's money. The cab driver refused and the suspects fled. The Blockbuster Video robbery involved two suspects waiting behind a stairway for the daily deposits. When a worker came with the deposits, the suspects demanded them. A Cambridge man was later arrested. The parking garage robbery occurred when two suspects tried to open two parking attendant booths, demanding money. Money was given to the suspects from the first booth, but the door to the second booth wouldn't open. The suspects then fled. The robbery of the Store 24 involved a suspect who entered and attempted to take a sandwich without paying for it. When the worker tried to stop the suspect, the suspect took out a knife and stated that he was hungry and was taking the sandwich.

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## Street Robbery

Street robberies dropped 29% in the first half of 2001. Of the 52 street robberies reported in the first quarter of 2001:

- Three were “Acquaintance” robberies, committed by friends, co-workers, or drinking buddies.
- Five were “Homeless” robberies, in which a homeless person was robbed usually by a group of kids or by other homeless.
- Five were “Bully Boy” robberies, in which school-aged youths robbed each other.
- Five were “Pack” robberies, where a group of young males used strong-arm tactics to relieve a victim of his money.
- Nineteen were “Predatory” robberies, in which one or two offenders “mugged” their victims with a weapon or the threat of a weapon. Of these nine robberies, seven were classified as “crude,” meaning that the robbers seemed edgy, unprepared, and unpredictable. The remaining twelve were “Professional,” indicating that the robbers were collected, efficient, and effective.
- Eight were “Purse Snatchings,” in which the robber approached a female victim from behind and grabbed her purse.

Types of Weapons Used in Street Robberies This Year	
Type of Weapon	Number of Incidents Reported
No Weapon	17
Handgun	14
Hands/Feet	8
Knife	5
Implied Gun	3
Bar/Pipe/Stick/Club	2
Other/Unknown	3

Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies			
Neighborhood	1 <sup>st</sup> Half 1999	1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2001
East Cambridge	9	7	9
MIT	1	1	1
Inman/Harrington	9	13	3
Area 4	22	14	11
Cambridgeport	12	10	11
Mid-Cambridge	2	8	5
Riverside	6	8	4
Agassiz	0	0	1
Peabody	5	4	2
West Cambridge	3	5	2
North Cambridge	5	3	3
Cambridge Highlands	0	0	0
Strawberry Hill	1	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0

- Three were “Unprovoked,” in which victims found themselves in innocent situations that suddenly turned hostile.
- One was a “Home Invasion,” where robbers enter their victim’s homes, usually at night, subduing the residents (sometimes by tying them), and robbing them. Two unknown suspects wielding a gun and wearing masks stopped two residents of 362 Rindge Ave. at the elevator. The suspects forced the residents back to their apartment and made them sit while they robbed them of all their belongings. The victims managed to escape unharmed.

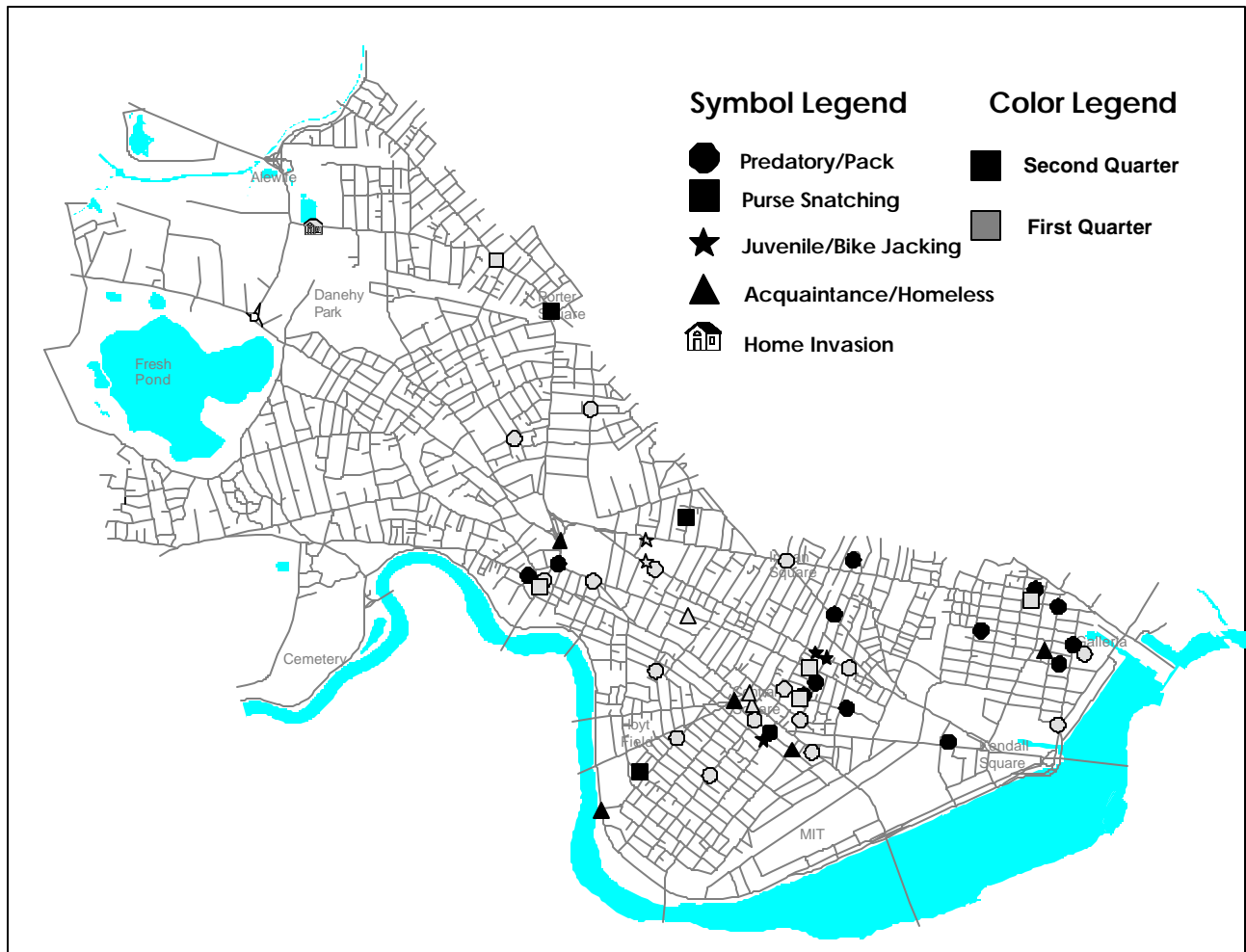
Street robbery series and trends observed in the first three months of 1999:

- A series of robberies on Pearl and Harvard Streets. The three robberies occurred on or just prior to the weekend, just after midnight. The suspects seemed to target young male graduate students, walking alone at night. The suspects were described as two black males, wearing dark hooded jackets and brandishing either a knife or firearm.
- Two robberies in the Agassiz neighborhood in March. Both robberies took place between 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. One was on Shepard St. and the other was on Sacramento St. In both instances, a white male suspect carrying a handgun targeted young males walking by themselves.

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## Street Robberies Reported in Cambridge Between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001

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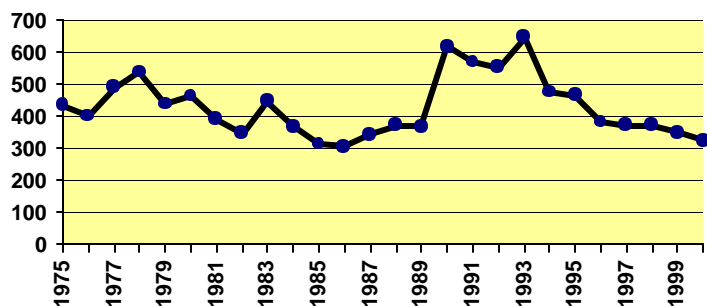
143 in 2000 · 166 in 2001  
16% Increase

## Aggravated Assault

Aggravated Assault describes an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed.

Up 16% in the second quarter of 2001, aggravated assaults were primarily domestic in nature. Out of the 167 total incidents reported, about one-third transpired within the Cambridgeport and Area 4 neighborhoods, and 64 (i.e., 38% of total incidents) resulted in an arrest. Incidents were split fairly evenly between the first and second quarters, with 47% of all 167 crimes occurring between January and March, and

Aggravated Assault in Cambridge, 1975-2000



Classification	% of 2000 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Assaults	% of 2001 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Assaults
Acquaintance	11%	10%
Affray/Brawl	0%	1%
Bar/Alcohol	6%	7%
Domestic	32%	31%
Drug Deal	1%	0%
Homeless	7%	2%
Juvenile/Gang	13%	15%
Landlord/Neighbor	4%	2%
On Police Officer	3%	4%
Psychotic Episode	0%	1%
Shop Owner/Patron	4%	2%
Third Lover	0%	1%
Traffic/Parking	10%	7%
Unprovoked	5%	11%
Workplace		
Other		

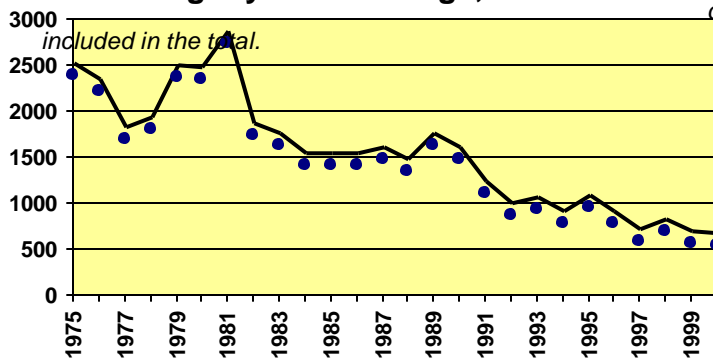
53% occurring over the second quarter of 2001. The months of April and May claimed 16% and 14% of total crimes (respectively), whereas June, alone, reported over 23% of the 167 total aggravated assaults. Nearly all of these June assaults took place between Friday and Tuesday.

Several assaults in the latter part of June involved motor vehicles. For example, on 6/23 at 11:45 pm, an argument ensued in a Rindge Ave. parking lot between a Somerville man and an unknown male in his 30's. The suspect, who was angry over a parking space, proceeded to slam his car into the victim's. When the victim exited his car to call police, the suspect got into the victim's car, put it into reverse, and let it roll into another car that was parked nearby.

# Burglary

Burglary describes

## Burglary in Cambridge, 1975-2000



the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary attempts are

Type	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001	% Change
Commercial Burglary	74	57	-23%
Residential Burglary	157	195	+24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>+9%</b>

Overall, burglary increased by 9% in the first six months of 2001. This might indicate a possible spike this year in the otherwise downward spiral of this crime. However, it looks as though if there is a spike, it will occur due to housebreak totals and not commercial break totals.

## Commercial Burglary

The first quarter of 2001 recorded a decline in this crime, but also recorded a prolific pattern of breaks into business offices in search of high-end electronics such as laptop and desktop computers. This trend continued in the second quarter of 2001, however no real patterns emerged. While commercial breaks into retail establishments have remained steady as a hotspot for breaks, this year's trend of breaks into business offices starkly contrasts last year's pattern of construction breaks. While one is on the rise, the other is steadily declining. The 23% decrease continues the steady decline in this crime seen throughout the 1990s.

TYPE	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001
Misc. Retail Establishments	15	12
Industrial/Construction	22	8
Business Offices	9	16
Church	4	0
Cinema	2	0
Clothing Store	1	1
Bar/Restaurant	7	5
Hair/Beauty/Health	1	1
Auto Sales/Service	3	0
School	3	7
Assisted Living	0	1
Government Building	0	1
Parking Garage	0	1
Hotel	0	2
Laundromat	2	1
Bank	0	1
Other	5	0

ndetermined amount of jewelry and possibly construction site cameras were removed.

- The most expensive break occurred overnight on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 Alewife Ctr. where a perpetrator gained entrance to a secured area by entering a numerical code and removed 8 laptop computers (\$3,000 - \$4,000 each).
- There were seven arrests for this crime so far this year. Five out of the seven were of Cambridge residents. Methods of entry were split between smashing windows and entered rear doors. Locations also varied.

Among the several commercial burglary patterns reported during the first six months of 2001:

- Two business offices were broken into at 955 Mass Ave. on the same day during the same time period. Entrance was gained via a drop ceiling and a glass panel on one of the office doors was broken. Another door in this incident was found pried open. Nothing was reported missing at the time of the report and there is no known suspect.
- 201 Monsignor O'Brien Highway was also subject to a double-break in late March. An unknown suspect attempted to break into the building by making a large hole through the cement blocks in the rear of the building. Entrance was never gained and no items were reported missing. About 5 days earlier on 3/23, the building was broken into by using a pick to break through the rear wall. Entrance was gained in this instance, and once inside the building,

#### Geographic breakdown of Commercial Burglaries

Business District	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001
Galleria/East Cambridge	10	6	11
Kendall Square/MIT	4	19	4
Inman Square	8	10	6
Central Square	19	12	11
Cambridgeport/Riverside	6	0	5
Bay Square/Upper B.way	8	6	6
Harvard Square	13	4	5
1500-1900 Mass. Ave.	4	4	1
Porter Square	12	5	7
Alewife/West Cambridge	4	8	1

## Residential Burglary

Residential burglaries, or "housebreaks," have increased 24% in the first six months of 2001. There wasn't an overall decrease or an overall increase within the neighborhood totals for housebreaks during the second quarter. Neighborhoods such as East Cambridge, Inman/Harrington, and Area 4 experienced substantial increases, while neighborhoods such as MIT, and Agassiz experienced significant decreases. A significant increase/decrease denotes a change of at least 50 percent in either direction.

Mid-Cambridge is a neighborhood that traditionally reports one of the highest number of housebreaks. So far this year, this trend continues as Mid-Cambridge reports the highest number of incidents of all the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	13	12	21
MIT	0	1	0
Inman/Harrington	15	7	13
Area 4	20	18	33
Cambridgeport	15	22	20
Mid-Cambridge	18	31	43
Riverside	7	15	22
Agassiz	9	8	2
Peabody	31	17	12
West Cambridge	15	11	15
North Cambridge	14	13	12
Cambridge Highlands	1	0	0
Strawberry Hill	6	2	2

The month of May was marked with a dramatic spike of incidents reported in comparison to the average. Reports filed in from various geographical locations around the City. The vast majority of breaks were committed during the daytime on weekdays. Despite many reports of one or two breaks at a given location, there were few housebreak patterns during the first six months of 2001. The following are some of the notable breaks:

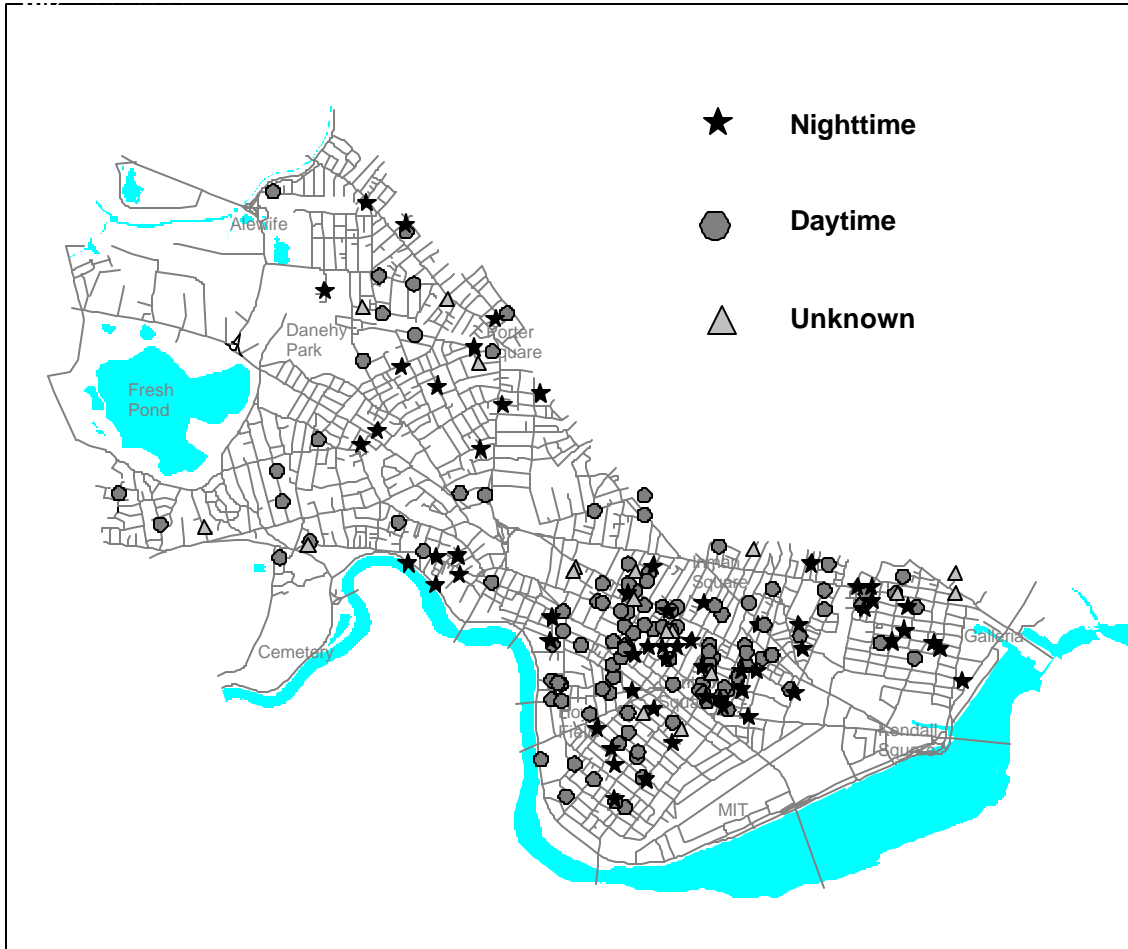
- On April 5, 2001, three apartments on Magazine Street (Cambridgeport neighborhood) reported breaks during the day. Two in one apartment building, and one in another. In two of the breaks, the suspect was unsuccessful in breaking in the front door. In the third incident, the suspect was

successful and made off with 80 CDs.

- The 200-300 block of Harvard Street reported twenty housebreaks in the first six months of 2001. One apartment building reported seven incidents, followed by three apartment buildings that reported two incidents each. These breaks mainly occurred during the week, however there was a high concentration on Sundays. The incidents were divided between nighttime and daytime breaks. Burglars targeted jewelry, high-end electronics, and bicycles.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, five housebreaks were reported - two in the 100 block of Pearl Street and three in the 300 block of Western Avenue. The breaks took place during the daytime with suspects targeting typical items such as high-end electronics, CDs, and cash. However in one of the Western Avenue breaks, the suspect stole a handgun and an extra magazine of ammunition.
- A pattern of housebreaks emerged in Mid-Cambridge in mid-May. Numerous breaks were occurring throughout the neighborhood. Most occurred during the day, especially around 10:00 a.m. CDs, laptops, computers, and cash were targeted by suspects who either gained entry by forcing doors or windows.
- Eight arrests were made in the first six months of 2001. One incident produced two arrests when CPD arrived to a complaint of noise and found two young males in an apartment that was not theirs, even though they claimed it was. Three arrests were made of Cambridge residents, although one arrest involved a domestic situation. The remaining arrestees resided outside of Cambridge.



## Housebreaks Reported in Cambridge Between January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001

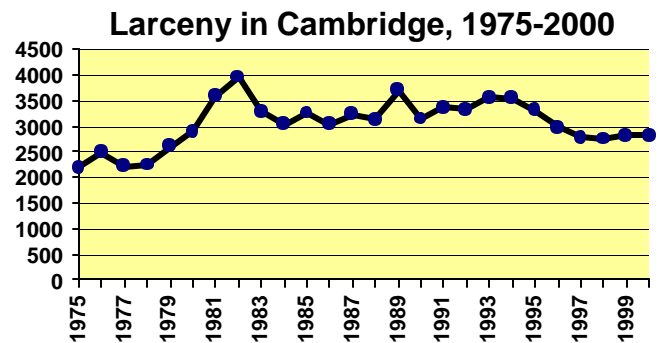


1331 in 2000 · 1364 in 2001  
2% increase

## Larceny

Larceny is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of auto parts and accessories, horse thefts, and bicycle thefts, in which no use of force, violence, fraud, or trespass occurs. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, this crime category does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is also excluded from this category, as it is a separate crime index offense.

Larceny (i.e., theft) remains the most common index crime. It accounts for a large percent of all serious crime reported in Cambridge.



To facilitate analysis, the Crime Analysis Unit divides the crime of larceny into the following sub-categories:

Type	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2001
Larceny from a Building	306	266
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	298	375
Larceny of a Bicycle	127	93
Larceny from a Person	162	209
Shoplifting	201	252
Larceny from a Residence	105	89
Larceny of a License Plate	86	46
Larceny of Services	7	18
Miscellaneous Larceny	39	16

Despite a mere 2% increase in total larcenies, sub-category totals changed significantly from last year, due to several patterns that emerged. The two most prolific and on-going patterns reported involved larcenies from motor vehicles in Area 4 and larcenies from persons in Harvard Square (reviewed below).

## Larcenies from Building

Larcenies from buildings are non-burglary and non-shoplifting thefts from commercial establishments. "Non-burglary" means that either the offender had a specific right to be on the premises (e.g., he worked there) or the building was open to the general public, and that no force was used to gain entry to the building where the theft was committed.

<b>Larcenies from buildings are further sub-divided into 14 categories:</b>		
Type	Jan-June 2001	% of Total
Company property from offices	50	19%
Personal property from offices	35	13%
Property from school classrooms	9	3%
Property left on store counters	20	8%
Property "forgotten" in restrooms & other locations	12	5%
Property unattended in bars	3	1%
Employee property in back rooms of stores	19	7%
Property left in health club locker	15	6%
Property unattended in other locations	30	11%
Cash missing from store safes	34	13%
Property left in hotel rooms	4	1%
Property stolen from construction sites	26	10%
Other/Misc	9	3%

Clearly, the majority of larcenies from buildings occurred in businesses, where office property was targeted. Overall, larcenies from buildings decreased by 13 percent in the second quarter of 2001. The following is a review of the patterns and trends recorded by the Crime Analysis Unit so far in 2001.

- The majority of *larcenies from buildings* occurred at various office buildings around the city. The typical scenario involved a suspect coming into the office, claiming to be looking for a job or using the bathroom, and then sneaking into empty offices to take laptops and wallets.
- By far, the most *larcenies from buildings* were reported at the Galleria Mall. In a majority of the incidents, businesses suspected employees or ex-employees of stealing deposits. Cash deposits that were placed in a safe at closing time would mysteriously disappear sometime between then and the following morning. Other incidents involved cash registers being short of large sums of money at closing time.
- Health clubs have traditionally reported patterns of *larcenies from buildings*. Only three larcenies from health clubs were reported in the first quarter of 2001,

compared to the twelve that were reported in the second quarter. Bally's Fitness Center, located at 1815 Massachusetts Avenue reported the most incidents. These larcenies typically occur during the week at lunchtime or shortly after 5 p.m. when people start to get out of work. Clients of the club put

their belongings in a locker supplied by the club, go workout, and then return to find that someone has entered their locker and stolen their credit cards.

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## Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

With a 26 percent, or a 77 incident increase, larcenies from motor vehicles climbed more than any other crime during the first six months of 2001, and the increase promises to continue throughout the summer.

Larcenies from motor vehicles involve an offender either breaking into a car and stealing valuables within (e.g., cellular telephones, car stereos), or stealing an exterior accessory (e.g., tires, hubcaps). In an average year, it is second only to malicious destruction (vandalism) as the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge.

Patterns occur in commercial areas during the day and in residential areas during the night. Commercial hotspots have traditionally included mall and business area parking lots and garages. Residential hotspots include parking lots at large apartment buildings and complexes.

Neighborhood	2000	2001	%Change
East Cambridge	31	39	+13%
MIT	11	11	N.C.
Inman/Harrington	11	22	+100%
Area 4	46	65	+41%
Cambridgeport	48	48	N.C.
Mid-Cambridge	33	52	+58%
Riverside	14	20	+43%
Agassiz	12	18	+50%
Peabody	28	36	+29%
West Cambridge	26	22	-15%
North Cambridge	21	27	+29%
Cambridge Highlands	9	7	-22%
Strawberry Hill	8	8	N.C.

Almost all of the neighborhoods experienced some increase in larcenies from motor vehicles this year, as compared to the same time last year.

The Inman/Harrington neighborhood reported the most significant increase in incidents this year, however there were no patterns to report.

One major pattern that seems to come-and-go, but never disappear is a pattern of *larcenies from motor vehicles* in the Area 4 neighborhood. This year, this pattern extended past Central Square and into the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. The majority of the Area 4 breaks occurred in the Bishop Allen Drive area in close proximity to

Norfolk, Columbia, and Main Streets. Specifically, incidents were mainly reported on weeknights between 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Following the report of an eyewitness on March 10<sup>th</sup>, a resident of Area 4 was apprehended and arrested for trying door handles and entering cars parked within this area. The resident had previously been arrested for committing the same crime in the same area.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, a spree of four *larcenies from motor vehicles* was reported on Kelley Street in the Peabody neighborhood. It is unknown how the suspect(s) entered the vehicles, but they targeted easily visible items such as cash and CD players.

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## Larcenies from Person

Larcenies from persons describes pocket-picking or any theft which occurs within the victim's area of control. The thefts are non-confrontational, and the victim is usually not aware of the theft until after it has occurred. If a confrontation between the offender and the victim occurs, the crime is recorded as a robbery.

Larceny from persons increased by 29 percent in the first six months of 2001, but most of them still fell into two main scenarios:

1. A diner places his or her jacket over the back of a chair, or places her purse under her chair. Someone sitting behind the victim goes through the coat or purse, taking the valuables within, or takes the coat or purse entirely. This accounts for 37 percent of larcenies from person. As always,

larcenies from persons continue to plague restaurants and bars in the Harvard Square area. Despite possible fluctuations in the intensity of this pattern, it is ever-present. Analysis reveals that these larcenies typically occur between 2:15 to 6:30 p.m. at cafés. It is doubtful that this pattern will disappear as we move through the summer months and increasing numbers of tourists flock to Harvard Square.

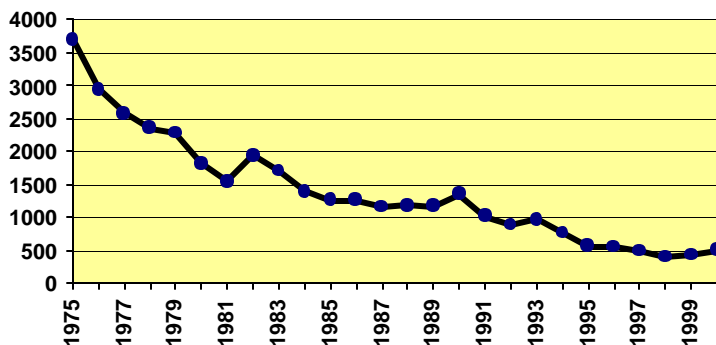
2. A shopper, usually in a supermarket, keeps her purse in her cart. While she is distracted selecting merchandise, someone pilfers the purse from the cart. This scenario accounted for about 20 percent of reported thefts. This type of theft is not localized in any particular area of the city.

The incidents of pocket-picking, where a suspect reaches into the victim's coat, purse, or backpack and removes valuables while the victim is walking, have significantly declined. Pocket-picking requires a particular skill that modern criminals increasingly fail to develop. Harvard Square reports the highest pocket-picking numbers, with concentrations between noon and 4 p.m.

231 in 2000 · 243 in 2001  
5% increase

## Auto Theft

**Auto Theft in Cambridge, 1975-2000**



*Defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, this offense category includes the theft of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters, and snowmobiles. This definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by persons having lawful access.*

Auto theft increased slightly over the first two quarters of 2001. This crime has dropped steadily over the past 20 years thanks to crackdowns on fraud by insurance companies and to the near-elimination of auto "chop shops" in the Boston area.

Modern auto theft is usually committed by teenagers looking to "joyride" or by other petty thieves looking for short-term transportation. Over 70% of stolen cars are eventually recovered – most of them relatively intact.

The following are a few patterns reported in the second quarter of 2001:

- 700 Block of Memorial Drive: 777 & 784 Memorial Drive reported five auto thefts so far this year. The thefts occurred on weekdays between 11:30 and 5:00 p.m. Two Nissan Maximas were taken from 784 Memorial Drive in the second quarter of 2001.
- Rindge Avenue: Five motor vehicles were stolen from the parking lots at the Rindge Ave. apartments in the second quarter of 2001. All of the thefts occurred either on a Sunday or a Saturday around 4:00 p.m. Two recoveries were made: one in Jamaica Plain and one on Pine Street in Cambridge.

Neighborhood	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q. 2000	1 <sup>st</sup> Q. 2001
East Cambridge	35	35	29
MIT	15	14	7
Inman/Harrington	16	18	14
Area 4	26	43	42
Cambridgeport	21	32	35
Mid-Cambridge	12	18	24
Riverside	13	12	26
Agassiz	4	6	9
Peabody	15	18	20
West Cambridge	6	9	10
North Cambridge	22	18	14
Cambridge Highlands	2	5	8
Strawberry Hill	2	2	5
Unknown	0	1	0

- **Area 4:** Area 4 has surpassed all the other neighborhoods in motor vehicle related crimes. Patterns of auto thefts and larcenies from motor vehicles have been tightly clustered around Bishop Allen Drive, Main Street, and Norfolk Street. The thefts occur mostly during the week at varied times. Honda Accords, Toyota Camrys, and Toyota Corollas are popular targets.

MAKES		MODELS	
Honda	43	Honda Civic	21
Toyota	31	Honda Accord	16
Ford	27	Toyota Camry	13
Acura	17	Acura Integra	12
Chevrolet	14	Toyota Corolla	12
Nissan	10	Nissan Maxima	5
Dodge	6	Toyota Tercel	4
Buick	5	Ford Taurus	4
Jeep	5	Ford Escort	4
Yamaha	4	Buick Century	3

### Top Ten Makes & Models Stolen

Hondas topped the list of stolen vehicles in the first six months of 2001. Not surprisingly, Toyotas followed closely behind. Sport-utility vehicles had previously started to creep up the list, however this year not even one made the top ten.

### Auto Thefts Reported in Cambridge January 1, 2001 and June 30, 2001

